

# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Performers gather for annual festival

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Clowns were clowning, jugglers were juggling, and actors were acting at the 2002 Christian Performing Arts Festival April 5-6 at Country Woods Church, Jackson.

Festival director Harvey Ellis, youth/church recreation consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department (DFM) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention

the leadership was outstanding. We could not have organized an event of this size without leadership," he reported.

Ellis was concerned that predictions of bad weather and several other youth-oriented events in the Jackson area would put a damper on this year's effort, but neither was the case.

"We registered a lot of people from across Mississippi, and 35-40 people from out of state. Louisiana and Alabama sent the most participants from out of state," Ellis said.

"It was not perfect, but the evaluations were very positive," he pointed out. "We intend to get better every year."

Ellis commended the committee that helped him put together this year's festival, characterizing their effort as "incredible" for an event that has "turned into a major job every year." Year 2002 committee members included:

- Myrna Gregory of Brandon.
- Vicki Roberts of Jackson.
- Bobby Everett of Jackson.
- Martha Cannon of Batesville.

- Susan Clark of Jackson.
- Leo Howard of Meridian.

"We couldn't do this, at the level we do this, every year without a strong committee standing behind us."

"I also want to thank Country Woods Church for hosting the event. The church's ministry staff, ministry assistants staff, and the maintenance staff were all outstanding," Ellis said.

Ellis enumerated the reasons Mississippi Baptist should support the festival. "It's a great opportunity for churches looking for ways to get more people involved in ministry."

"It encourages church members to reach out to their community through the utilization of the skills they learn at the festival."

"It's also good preparation for mission trips, because of the techniques learned that can be used to draw people to a hearing on the Gospel message. It's

a challenging but highly effective way to reach people for Christ," Ellis said.

Ellis also stressed that the program is designed to appeal to people of all ages. "It's not just a youth event. There are sessions that could certainly prompt pastors, music ministers, and other church staffers to rethink how they do worship and how to attract many more unsaved people to their churches."

The youngest participant was less than 12 years old, Ellis said, while the eldest participant of which he is aware was around 75 years old. "The festival really is geared for the many age groups and interests we find in church today. I encourage everyone to participate, regardless of age or skill level."

The 2003 Christian Performing Arts Festival will be held February 21-22 at Ridgecrest Church, Madison. Ellis cautioned participants to note the earlier dates and be prepared to send in registration forms earlier than in previous years.

For more information on the Christian Performing Arts Festival, Ellis can be contacted

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA — Pat Holland of Jacksonville, Fla., puts a big smile on her seashell puppet during the 2002 Christian Performing Arts Festival April 6 at Country Woods Church, Jackson. Holland served as an instructor for the session entitled, Novelty Ideas for Puppetry. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3286 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, Ext. 286. E-mail: hgellis@mbcb.org.

The Christian Performing Arts Festival is a ministry of the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

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STUCK IN TRAFFIC — Shaun Selmán of Petal simulates a driver in rush hour gridlock while serving as instructor for the Advanced Creative Movement session of the 2002 Christian Performing Arts Festival April 6 at Country Woods Church, Jackson. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

SuperDude comes alive

4

Directions

5

Sunday School lessons

10

Baptist Children's Village

11



LOOK OUT! — Prospective jugglers practice their newfound skill during the Beginning Juggling session of the 2002 Christian Performing Arts Festival April 6 at Country Woods Church, Jackson. Leo Howard of Meridian taught the session. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



# Should missionaries be asked to affirm BFM?

## Yes.

By Jerry Rankin, president  
International Mission Board

Does it matter what missionaries believe? Should missionaries sent out by a denominational agency have any accountability to the churches that support them?

Since the New Hampshire Baptist Confession of 1833, Baptists have drafted documents of belief that distinguish them from other Christians. The Baptist Faith and Message (BFM), like other confessions of faith, imposes no theological creed on individuals and churches. It does represent the common faith shared by Southern Baptists who choose to affiliate in associations and conventions.

Some people are predisposed against the Southern Baptist Convention's adherence to historic fundamentals of faith based on the authority of God's infallible Word. They have criticized the International Mission Board (IMB) for asking missionaries to reassure Southern Baptists that they affirm the BFM. They seem to view the request as something unprecedented in Southern Baptist missions history.

Even in the 19th century, before the BFM was written, trustees of the Foreign Mission Board (IMB's predecessor) required missionary candidates to affirm a doctrinal statement to assure Southern Baptists their beliefs were consistent with the generally held doctrines that distinguished the convention. Since 1970, under the leadership of Baker James Cauthen, and later under Keith Parks, every Southern Baptist missionary appointed by what was then the Foreign Mission Board signed a statement that he or she had read and was in agreement with the BFM. Since the 2000 BFM was adopted, more than 1,500 new missionaries have been approved and sent out.

These missionaries have gone to the uttermost parts of the world without expressing problems with the appropriateness of this requirement or stating that signing this statement of affirmation was imposing a creed. Critics are implying that missionaries are being coerced into doctrinal conformity and that creedal beliefs are being imposed. On the contrary, missionaries are being asked to sign a statement that their own beliefs are consistent with the current BFM and that they will carry out their work in accordance with it.

Some overseas personnel may not fully agree with or understand the need for the revisions to the BFM made in 2000 or for the family article in 1998. The fact that they have the freedom to state their disagreements creates an opportunity to discuss the cultural and societal changes in American churches that made those changes appropriate. IMB administration and trustees have the



Rankin

utmost confidence in Southern Baptists' overseas missionaries. We know their passion for reaching a lost world and their willingness to sacrifice and devote their lives to God's call. That passion and willingness doesn't come from theological relativism, but out of a conviction based on the authority of God's Word and obedience to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

All Southern Baptist missionaries on the field have already affirmed their agreement with the BFM that was current when they were appointed. The reason I have asked them to reaffirm their beliefs in regard to the 2000 BFM is to remove suspicions that their beliefs and practices could be inconsistent with our common confession of faith and move us forward in reaching a lost world. Southern Baptists rightly expect the missionaries they send out and support to represent the confession of faith our churches have adopted. The administration of our mission entities should provide that assurance. Some have charged that the Southern Baptist Convention has changed to the point that the highest priority is not missions but doctrinal conformity. We have not changed our priority. During the last five years we have seen record missionary appointments. In 1997, 628 new missionaries were sent overseas. Last year our Southern Baptist churches commissioned and appointed 1,150 new missionaries. The number of baptisms per year overseas has grown 40%. More than a thousand new believers a day are being baptized. In that same five years the number of new churches started has increased 250%, with nearly 6,000 new churches started last year alone. The number of unreached people groups being touched with the Gospel by your missionaries has nearly doubled in the last five years.

cont. on page 7

## No.

By Rex Yancey, pastor  
First Church, Pascagoula

I know Jerry Rankin and appreciate the complexity of his position and ministry. I believe his explanation of why missionaries are being asked to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message (BFM) needs to be rebutted.

It seems to me that Rankin defeats his argument by the logic he uses. He seeks to establish the fact that it is important to know what missionaries believe and that they represent the churches that are supporting them. Who would argue with that statement? No one, of course! However, beyond the smoke-screen of the BFM affirmation is the issue of control, which really bothers me.

As Baptists, we do not tolerate hierarchy — or do we? The Mississippi Baptist Convention has not adopted any edition of the BFM. The reasoning has been that this is the responsibility of the national convention to adopt such a confession. State Baptist conventions, associations, and churches have been free to choose whether or not they will adopt the confessions. However, the move is on for state Baptist conventions, associations, churches, and individuals who work for any of the above to adopt the BFM or fear the consequences.

It is not so much a matter of where, how, and why one might disagree with the 2000 BFM. It is a conviction that we will not condense the truth of God's Word down to man's interpretation and then insist that everybody conform to it. If that happens, the document becomes a creed.

I can imagine how many of our missionaries must feel who have already proven their doctrinal integrity and loyalty to Southern Baptists. Through the years they have risked their lives witnessing to the lost, starting churches, and spreading the Gospel to the Last Frontier of the Great Commission. If they haven't been doing these things, why haven't they been brought home?

To imply that if missionaries don't sign an affirmation of this document, that "these are they who water down the authority of God's Word, believe whatever they choose, and are batted about by every wind of doctrine," really upsets me.

Missionaries are individuals. They have personal identities, gifts, callings, and beliefs. They represent churches that are just as varied. Some missionaries can affirm the 2000 BFM without their loyalty being threatened. For other missionaries, while they be few in number, to sign any edition of the BFM is to go against their personal convictions.

However, these missionaries are just as loyal to the churches that support them and they respect the doctrines of the statement and those who believe in the statement. To be forced to accept these beliefs as their own in the name of denominational solidarity violates their sense of freedom.

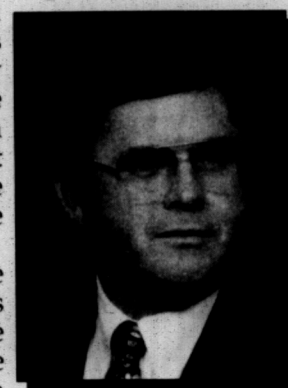
When our missionaries are living halfway around the world, it must be chilling to have their International Mission Board (IMB) leaders call their integrity and career into question. Such pressures will eventually lead to resignations by those missionaries who cannot continue in a compromised identity. Are we doing the right thing — God's Will — to sacrifice these missionaries on the altar of political conformity? I think not. This is just the action many Southern Baptists have prayed would never happen.

Our Southern Baptist leadership is not fond of criticism. However, with decisions such as the BFM affirmation, they should not be surprised by a few letters to the editor of our state Baptist papers in opposition — and these people are not so easily written off as those who "water down" the Word of God. Most of them have sacrificially supported our missionaries, and they deserve a hearing on this issue.

When our Southern Baptist leadership starts messing with the missionaries, I believe many of those people are telling the leadership, as in the lyrics of country music singer Merle Haggard's song, "You're walking on the fighting side of me."

I prayed for Jerry Rankin when he was a missionary on the field, and I continue to pray for him as he leads our missionary effort. He is a Mississippian. My posture of protest is tempered with love. The church I pastor is a Global

cont. on page 7



Yancey

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# Analysis: 9/11 not dissuading missionaries

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Rage and blood in the Middle East. Deadly attacks on Americans and Christians in Pakistan. Missionaries held hostage by radical Muslims in the Philippines — and threatened elsewhere. The lingering clouds of Sept. 11.

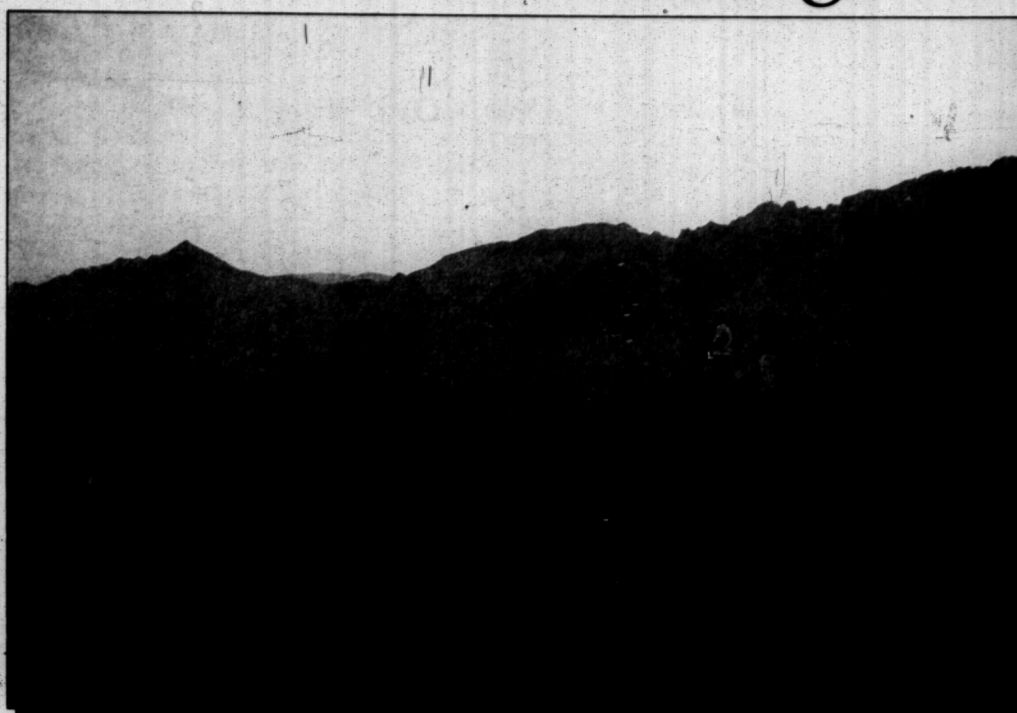
Is the cascade of grim events beginning to take a toll on Southern Baptists' commitment to world missions? Not if you measure commitment by the number of new missionaries going overseas — or their growing interest in sharing the Christian Gospel with Muslims.

"I don't think it's coincidental that as all this has occurred, we've had a 28% increase in missionary appointments in the last year over the highest we'd ever had before," said Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International

Mission Board (IMB). "I think it's God's way of calling out his people at a time when he is shaking the nations."

The largest Southern Baptist missionary appointment service ever (124 new workers) was held less than two months after Sept. 11. A total of 121 have been appointed since. The majority of them are going to countries or people groups with varying degrees of resistance to Christianity and mission activity.

"After 9/11, we thought there would be a drop-off in missionary appointments," said Jim Riddell, leader of the board's personnel consulting team. "Instead, the numbers have continued to flow heavily. My impression is that people, at least on the career side, are tak-



**TO THE EDGE**—The horrific events and aftermath of Sept. 11 are not discouraging Southern Baptists from obeying God's call to overseas missions. An amazing 235 new long-term workers have been appointed to overseas service since Sept. 11, and many of them are specifically requesting jobs "on the edge" — the difficult, often hostile places where the Gospel has yet to penetrate. (Photo by Roy M. Burroughs)

ing their lives even more seriously. They're saying, 'I want to live my life in a way that will make an impact.'"

Many of them specifically request jobs "on the edge." Translation: difficult, often hostile places where the Gospel has yet to penetrate — like many parts of the Muslim world, where spiritual hunger and openness lurk beneath a veneer of anger or apathy.

One young woman who recently completed two years of service in a heavily Muslim country is going back out as a career missionary. This time she'll work among Muslim refugees in Europe. She admitted she was "pretty shaken up" by 9/11 and its aftermath, but it didn't shake her commitment to serve.

"God just continues to burden my heart for Muslims, because I've seen so much of their hopelessness," she said. "My desire is to share with them and see them come to know Jesus and his grace."

For others, recent events have confirmed a conviction that they need to follow God into a dark, dangerous world.

"People who had been dragging their feet are saying, 'Sept. 11 led me to see missions in a different way. Now is the time. God wants me to go now,'" reported IMB consultant Jerry DeOliveira, who counsels missionary candidates. "Their interest is in the Muslim world."

Not everyone is lining up to go, however. Short-term volunteer numbers seem to have decreased significantly in recent months, particularly among teens and college students. It appears the IMB volunteer count for the first three months of the year will come in below last year's total for the same period. A number of projects scheduled for later this year have been canceled for lack of

volunteers, and not just in areas considered potentially risky.

"The biggest effect we're seeing is on young people," said Bill Cashion, who directs IMB volunteer mobilization. "Parents have to make that call, and some, understandably, are a little concerned about allowing their kids to go overseas right now."

Some missionary families temporarily relocated after the Sept. 11 attacks until their security situation could be evaluated.

One family returned, but with some degree of uncertainty about how they would be received. They were astonished at the way doors of opportunity had opened to them.

"We have found that one people group in particular has welcomed us as Americans like kings," they wrote. "We are having many invitations to come and work. One major religious organization there invited us to come and teach English classes and to begin agriculture help work there."



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BAPTISTS

THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

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## Volunteer stream slows

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Tasha's heart broke when she heard the news. An Arab teenager living in the Middle East, Tasha (not her real name) had persuaded many of her classmates to come to a Christian summer camp in her country. She was excited. Last year's camp had changed her own life forever. Now her friends who are spiritually searching would meet young believers from America and hear the good news of Jesus, just like she did. There will be no camp this year. It was canceled. After sending up to 80 Southern Baptist teens each summer for the last several years, the Southern Baptist International Board (IMB) received only five applications for this summer's camp. Some young Southern Baptists and many of their parents are anxious about threats overseas after Sept. 11, particularly as strife spreads in the Middle East. Tasha understands their concern, but she wants Southern Baptists to understand hers. "After waiting so long for the camp ... after convincing most of my classmates to participate and to give them a chance to know Jesus ... I just heard there will be no camp," she said in an e-mail. "This really breaks my heart.... Friends, I just want you to know that there is no safe place in this world." No safe place, but many lonely, dark places. This summer, Tasha's homeland will be a little lonelier, a little darker. "When we are unable to honor a commitment we make, we disappoint some, break the hearts of others and communicate to all that American Christians will go to other lands when it is convenient, safe, and affordable," says Kelly Davis, an IMB youth mobilizer. "I pray that this is the last time we will break the heart of a young believer or of our heavenly Father."

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

The Temple of the Gospel in St. Petersburg, Russia, is dedicated. The turn of the century former Russian Orthodox cathedral was renovated, in large part, by Mississippi Baptist college students. Fifty new believers were baptized on the weekend of the dedication.

### 20 years ago

Gene A. Triggs, vice-president of administration at Mississippi Chemical Corporation in Yazoo City, is elected chairman of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond — the first Mississippian to be elected in many years.

### 50 years ago

Revival fires are burning over the state, according to C. E. Wilbanks, state director of evangelism. "Even though this is springtime, plowing time, and planting time, the churches and pastors are busy in many parts of the state in soul-winning," he said.



# CP's SuperDude comes to life in new video

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A new, live-action video chronicling the adventures of SuperDude and the CP Squad has been completed and released by the Cooperative Program (CP) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

SuperDude and the CP Squad was filmed last fall and is available to churches and individuals as a ministry tool to teach boys and girls about CP missions. The one-hour show features a full cast, a colorful set, and special effects.

"We are excited about the new SuperDude video which is included on the CP Video Trio. When used with the Leaders Guide and Activities Book it becomes a stand alone, user-friendly resource any size church can use," said John Kyle, director of CP Development.

The film was produced by Billabong Films, based in Nashville. Stephen McGuffey, drama director at Westwood Church in Cleveland, Tenn., designed the SuperDude set.

SuperDude and the CP Squad was written by Todd Starnes, assistant editor of Baptist Press, the national news service of the SBC.

The SuperDude story line: David Hicks, an ordinary

Southern Baptist teenager, wins a Bible Drill competition. His prize is a Bible that hasn't been opened in 700 years. When he opens the Bible and begins to read Scripture, David receives a visit from an angel named Fred who gives David the opportunity to tell the world about Jesus Christ through CP Missions.

David joins forces with Andy the Faithful Sidekick, Katie, and Tater, as they battle the evil Dr. Dudley and show kids how they can take the Gospel of Christ to the world.

"One of the great things about SuperDude is that it is fun and contains a good Bible lesson," Kyle said. "It encourages the kids to work together and remain humble. It also reminds them that our true strength comes from God. The main CP Missions connection comes as they work through the activities book as part of the lessons that follow the video." Other features on the Video



REALLY BIG BIBLE — Andy the Faithful Sidekick (left) watches as SuperDude prepares to open the Really Big Bible. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

Trio include Video Missionary Moments, taken from the pages of the popular prayer guide of the same name, and the Passport Video Companion that can also be a stand-alone feature or used in conjunction with the printed piece, CP: Your Passport to Missions.

For more information on how individuals or churches can order the SuperDude video, Kyle

said state Cooperative Program departments could be contacted or the national CP Missions office reached at (800) 722-9407.

Mississippi Baptists can contact David Michel at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3233 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 233. E-mail: dmichel@mbcb.org.

## Messenger cards for SBC now available

Messenger cards for the 2002 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 11-12 in St. Louis are now available through the Office of the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. An official messenger card is required for each church messenger who registers at the annual meeting, and the cards are mailed only at the request of Mississippi Baptist churches.

To obtain the messenger cards, churches should contact Brenda Box, Ministry Assistant, Office of the Executive Director-Treasurer, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-mail: bbbox@mbcb.org.

Information on housing requests for the annual meeting can also be obtained through the executive director-treasurer's office, by calling toll-free (888) 882-5196, or at www.sbc.net. The deadline for housing requests is May 2.

## Lotz: LifeWay employees have divine opportunity

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—"Employees at LifeWay Christian Resources have an opportunity ordained by God to communicate the Gospel," Anne Graham Lotz said during an April 5 chapel service.

"To be effective, LifeWay employees must have the relationship with God they describe in their resources," said the founder and president of AnGel Ministries.

Lotz, the daughter of Billy and Ruth Graham and author of several books, including her latest, *Heaven: My Father's House*, said working at LifeWay "isn't just a career. This is a divinely ordained opportunity from God for you to get his message out to the world."

She challenged employees at the Southern Baptist Convention entity in Nashville to develop or deepen their relationship with God through Bible study and prayer "in order to fulfill God's message to the world."

"I feel that God has raised up LifeWay Christian Resources for such a time as this to extend a hand and pierce the darkness with the light of God's Word and bring people in touch with the Savior," she said.

"I want to applaud you for the ministry that takes place in this building and reaches all around the world. Not only do you bring people the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, you also help people who are saved by giving them strength and leading them into the fullness of the Christian life," she said.

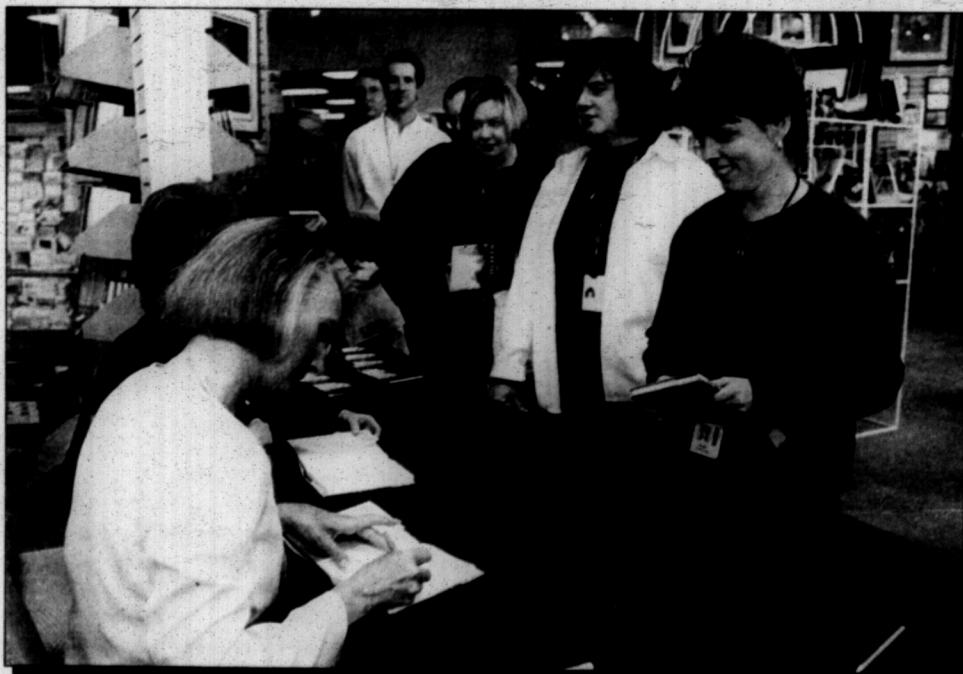
Lotz said she believes the tragic events of Sept. 11 are a dramatic example of a warning from God. While she said she

does not believe God caused the violence, she observed that perhaps he allowed it to get an important message across to the church and the world.

"I think for the church, the message was 'Wake up! It's time to get serious about the Gospel, and it's time to get serious about the lost world.'"

God's message, she believes, is that no matter who you are, you had better get right with him.

Christians are living in a wicked world, Lotz said, and they have a duty to tell God's message of judgment and salvation. She described a wicked world as one where there is "no wholesomeness, no humbleness, no niceness, no faithfulness, no righteousness, and no truthfulness at all."



LOTZ AT LIFEWAY — Anne Graham Lotz signs a copy of her new book, *My Father's House*, for LifeWay employees in Nashville. She spoke to employees during their chapel service on April 5. (Photo by David Rogers)

"That's a wicked world, and we can dress it up with all of our material prosperity, and we can make it look lovely and luxurious, but it's still a wicked world."

Using Genesis 6, Lotz described Noah's experiences and applied them to contemporary life, outlining the components of a wicked world and a God who watches, warns, and grieves for his creation.

She said she believes God is warning people today through environmental and natural disasters, and while LifeWay produces resources that give voice to those warnings, she said, "sometimes the world won't listen to preachers and teachers. They won't read the books, and they're not into all these resources, so God, in his mercy and grace, warns us through hurricanes and forest fires and floods and earthquakes."

It doesn't matter if you are the president of a company or a janitor in the company, she said.

"It doesn't matter if you have a thick stock portfolio or no savings account. It doesn't matter if you are young or old, male or female, white or black, conservative or liberal, Democrat or Republican, Protestant or Catholic," she stressed.

"The only thing that matters is that you are right with God," she said.

"You know, the really tragic thing is that the world doesn't seem to get the message and neither does the church," Lotz pointed out to the chapel attendees.



## THE PURPOSE OF PIG'S FEET

Over the years I have eaten some strange and exotic things. Some things I have eaten because I was open to the adventure and other things I ate because of the circumstances.

There were times that I really felt I had no choice and was obligated to eat a particular food. I tried a lot of things at least once, and many times discovered that I didn't particularly care for them or did not like them at all.

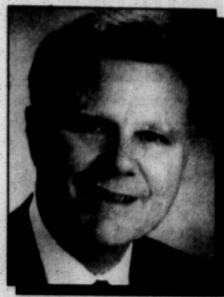
I have tried to eat raw oysters but I just can't convince my palate that they are good, or convince my brain that eating them is really a smart thing to do.

I feel like the guy who had a raw oyster on a little saucer and he walked up to a friend and said, "I bet you can't eat this and keep it down!" The friend, who loved oysters, said, "Why, sure I can!" So, he took the oyster, slapped a little catsup and hot sauce on it, and gulp — it was gone! The guy stood there and exclaimed, "That is amazing! I swallowed that thing three times and couldn't keep it down!"

I have concluded that there are just some things that should not be eaten and on the list should be pig's feet! The problem with pig's feet is not "to eat or not to eat," but to discover the real purpose for their being.

I am aware that God made pig's feet and I'm also aware that pigs must be special to the Lord, but the purpose of the pig's feet ought to be to hold the pig up and provide transportation for him — not for humans to eat!

Now, for those of you who think I am just rambling on about something insignificant, you are absolutely and sadly wrong! It is this very issue that, from the beginning in the garden until now, has gotten us in trouble.



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

God said of every variety of tree in the garden, "It is yours. Enjoy it! Be blessed! Except the one tree in the center of the garden — do not partake!" Yet, what was not designed for Adam and Eve, Adam and Eve said, "We will use it like we want to use it!"

Now, while I may be talking about pig's feet with my tongue stuck in my cheek, the reality is that most of the problems we've created for ourselves in life have come from misuses of what God has given to us. Let's just consider two or three areas:

• **Consider Snacks.** What I mean by that is the way we eat. America is literally eating itself to death. We eat too much and we eat too much of the wrong thing. While God made wonderful

foods for us to eat, he did not intend for us to ruin our health and shorten our lives by eating so much that we could not function.

Fully one-fourth of the American adult population is obese. That number just continues to escalate. Doctors warn us, dieticians instruct us, insurance companies berate us, and yet we choose to just go on misusing our great food fortune.

We are certainly blessed to live in a land of such great abundance, but when misused, the great blessing becomes a curse.

• **Consider Stuff.** Now, stuff is the catch-all word for all of the materialism that surrounds us: money, things — just stuff! God is the one who is the Maker and Giver of most stuff,

but he never intended for the stuff to control us. He intended for us to control the stuff.

More often than not we are like the rich farmer who, gaining more stuff, tore down his barns and built greater ones and filled all of them with more accumulations. It was then he sat back and said, "Soul, take thine ease; eat, drink, and be merry." He knew he had plenty of stuff, but before 24 hours was over, the stuff belonged to someone else and he belonged to the grave.

• **Consider sexuality.** God created sex. It is a tragedy that in our day and time it is constantly abused and misused. Rather than a God-given, sacred gift for procreation and marital pleasure, it has become a game and a toy for personal gratification. When used for purposes other than what God created it, it hurts rather than helps.

We all certainly would be better off if we found God's plan and purpose and lived within the borders that he has placed around us to keep us from going over the "cliffs of life." We would be blessed, and some pigs would have a leg to stand on!

## Curry, Mercer to speak at St. Louis SBC

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer, the two relief workers who were held captive in Afghanistan, will address messengers during the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) meeting in St. Louis.

Mercer and Curry will speak on June 11 during the Executive Committee report. They also will be available at the Executive Committee booth in the SBC exhibit hall following the Tuesday morning session.

## LifeWay Ridgecrest dedicates new chapel

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — With a "come on in" greeting, officials at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center opened the doors to a new 300-seat Rutland Chapel April 10. Built with a \$1 million gift from the Rutland Family Foundation in Decatur, Ga., the chapel is a stone and wood structure set on a mountainside overlooking the North Carolina conference center complex. In addition to the chapel area, the building has conference and fellowship space.

Both Ridgecrest and LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center in

New Mexico are owned and operated by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

George Beverly Shea, longtime soloist with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and a resident of the area, sang during the dedication service. "What a beautiful chapel. It's such a joy to be here with you," he said.

Speaking of the Rutland family, Robert White, executive director of the Baptist State Convention of Georgia, said, "Every great building must have a solid foundation. It's the same for every great family."

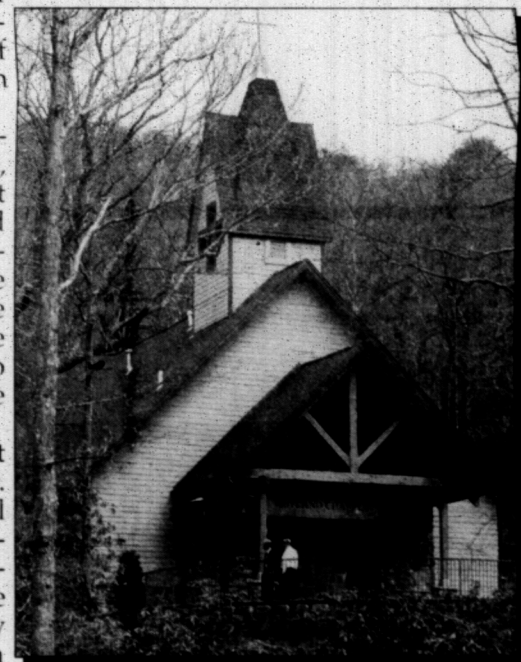
He said a family must have a solid foundation based on faith. "The Rutland family has that solid, faithful foundation because of Guy Rutland Sr.," White added, saying the Rutland Family Foundation has been responsible, directly and indirectly, for chapels being built at First

Church, Decatur, Ga., at Georgia Baptist Hospital, in all of Georgia's medical centers, and now at Ridgecrest.

The influence of the Rutland family, White said, has spread across the generations and the world. "It is remarkable to see the thread of faithfulness woven through this family."

Representing the family, Guy Rutland III said, "We've been at Ridgecrest for conferences and events. We've heard sermons and seen people come to Christ here. We are just so thankful to be able to be a part of it and to get to be involved in these renovations."

LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr. thanked several involved in the dedication. To the Rutland family, he said, "It is a rare blessing to see a family who passes their faith on to each generation."



Rutland Chapel, Ridgecrest



## BIBLE CONFERENCE WITH DR. JOHN PHILLIPS

**DR. JOHN PHILLIPS** is a nationally known author and teacher, best known for his commentaries on the Bible. He was with the Moody Bible Institute for 25 years. He now travels all over the world as an itinerant preacher. He is one of the most sought after Bible teachers of our day.



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MONDAY - WEDNESDAY  
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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



The concept of becoming a Covenant Marriage Church was presented to First Church, Vancleave, by Tony Perkins, Louisiana State Representative and author of American's first Covenant Marriage Law. At a banquet held on March 17, Perkins challenged members to commit to structured marriage preparation program prior to weddings held at the church. Pictured (from left) are Greg Potts, pastor; Perkins; and Wayne Hudson, Covenant Marriage Movement. For additional information, call Wayne Hudson at First Church, (228) 826-5806 or 826-1070.

Derma Church, Derma, will dedicate its new sanctuary, April 28, at 2 p.m. Chris Aldridge is pastor.

Cedarview Church, Olive Branch, recently retired the indebtedness on Victory Hall with a note burning at the end of the service on Nov. 18. In 1993 Cedarview Church merged with Victory Heights Church in Memphis, Tenn., and the following year constructed another education unit housing the fellowship hall and additional classrooms. That indebtedness was then retired in 2001. Cedarview Church is beginning to have problems; more classrooms are now needed.

Turkey Creek Church, Calhoun County, will celebrate its 157th birthday on April 28. Services will begin at 10 a.m. and lunch at noon. For additional information, call (662) 413-4057.

First Church, Bude, will present Marty Haggard, son of Merle Haggard, in concert as he presents the Gospel in testimony and song. The service will be 6 p.m., April 28. For more information, call the church office at (601) 384-2326.

First Church, Jackson, will host the senior adult luncheon on April 25 at 11:30 a.m. in the dining room of the Christian Life Center. For reservations or additional information, call Donna Lewis at (601) 949-1907.

Women of Prayer, Praise, and Power Weekend Conference will be held at Crossgates Church, Brandon, on April 26 and 27. Friday night begins at 7 p.m. and Saturday morning at 9 a.m. The guest speaker will be Alicia Williamson. For additional information, call Teri Metts at (601) 825-2562.

Youth of First Church, Sledge, raised \$331 at their annual Easter Bake Sale on March 29. Proceeds from the bake sale went to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Adults that receive special thanks for helping the youth with the sale are Sally Shideler, Janet Parker, Sandra Kendall, and Elizabeth Coston.

First Church, Sledge, began rebuilding the Women on Mission (WMU) group on Feb. 26. The meeting had 12 ladies present. Four of them went to the Under His Wings Conference at Slayden Church. The ladies met a second time on March 26 and had 10 members present and three visitors from Hollywood Church. They delivered three baskets of goodies to the children at Farrow Mannor in Independence for Easter.

Slayden Church, Slayden, was host on March 9 for the North Mississippi Women's Celebration regional conference. Elaine Rhodes from First Church, Poplarville, was the keynote speaker. Her topic, Under His Wing, was a Bible study and implementation of mentoring. Joyce Jones, Florence; Cynthia Jordan, Kociusko; and Mary Walker Penilton, Hudsonville, shared their personal testimonies. The music was coordinated by Polly Gill and Tabatha Sanders.

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**Tickets: \$40.00**



Featuring:  
Best-Selling Author,  
John Maxwell  
Coach Lou Holtz  
Motivational Expert,  
Denis Waitley

8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

**First Baptist Church, Gulfport**

Seating is limited

For more information  
call: 228-863-8501

Glenn Shows, family ministry consultant, presented Charles Stubblefield, Ecu, a plaque for 16 years as senior adult area director for area 1 at West Jackson Church, Tupelo. Jim Herring, Associational Missions Director of Monroe Association, will take over. Paul Lee, First Church, Cleveland, was given a plaque for 15 years as senior adult area director from area 5. Doug Spires, Briar Hill, Florence, will take over.



Shows and Stubblefield



Liberty Church, Carroll Association, recently held dedication services for a youth activities center. Pictured (from left) are Dave Davidson, J. T. DuBard, Bob Mobley, David Gillon, Rick Nail, and Riley Ainsworth (center) pastor.

## FLOWOOD BAPTIST

### 6th Annual Golf Tournament

#### Willow Creek

**Saturday, April 27th, 2002**

Registration Deadline • 7:30 am

Saturday, April 27th, 2002

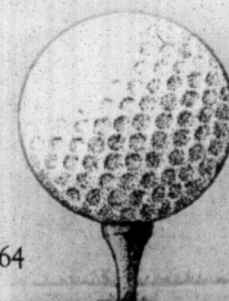
**Starts at 8:00 am**

**\$50 per person • \$200 per team**

### PRIZES AND TROPHIES

Proceeds will go towards the Annual Mission Construction Trip for the Flowood Baptist Church Brotherhood Association.

Call Eddie Cook at 992-3711 or  
Flowood Baptist Church at 992-6464  
for more information



## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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CEL JVVGAEU ZTVE  
DONZN CN XO SCJGOL,  
XO NCAPX, FOXVJL PXO  
JCBF VR UVL!

DVXE VEO: PXAYPQ-NAK

Clue: F = B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah Forty: Eight.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 18, 2002

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## SISTERS WHO CARE

### RETREAT

**MAY 24-27, 2002**

**PATTERSON PLACE LODGE  
CAMP GARAYWA**



Featuring "Miss Chocolate"  
Gwen Williams  
New Orleans, La.

Join us and the women of Seventh Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md.,  
for this celebration experience!

- "Women and Their Money" led by Rebecca Williams
- "Building Your Leadership Skills" led by Laura Leathers

For more info, contact the WMU at 1 (800) 748-1651, or in Jackson (601) 292-3324.

## Marriage Conferences



**JEFF & DEBBIE McELROY**

- Music
- Drama
- Inspiration
- Communication challenges
- Conflict resolution  
and much more

Time: Friday, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Saturday, 8 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Cost: \$50

Place: Main Street Baptist Church  
Hattiesburg  
March 1 & 2, 2002  
For registration, call David Rogers  
(601) 296-8000

**Broadmoor Baptist Church**  
Madison  
May 3 & 4, 2002  
For registration, call Tommy Jarrett  
(601) 898-2345

For more info contact:  
Glenn Shows, Discipleship and Family Ministry  
(601) 292-3373 or 1 (800) 748-1651

*One Voice in Worship, Aug. 18*

*Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus, 7 p.m.*



## Prayerwalking Day in Your Association Saturday, April 27, 2002

WMU and Men's Ministry Associational Leadership Teams are being encouraged to prayerwalk in and/or prayerdrive around every church and the surrounding area before the new year. Teams will want to invite others to join in with them.

### WHY PRAYERWALK?

- Raises awareness of lost and hurting people
- Shows the needs and opportunities in your area
- Will mobilize and energize believers to evangelize and minister to their community

**YOU CAN BE A PART IN DEVELOPING A VISION FOR YOUR CITY!**  
For more info, contact the WMU at 1 (800) 748-1651, or in Jackson (601) 292-3324.



## Growing Churches Through Discipleship

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly • July 25-27



**Higher Faith Quartet**  
leading Friday evening  
worship

- Teaching and training for the whole family: preschool, children, youth and adults
- Hear Speakers Tournament winners
- See demonstration Bible drill
- Recreational activities include:
  - Beachfront swimming
  - Fishing • Sand play • Tennis courts
  - Olympic-sized swimming pool
  - The beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast surrounding the assembly grounds

Mississippi churches and families can **make reservations NOW** by calling Frank Simmons at (228) 452-7261. (Visa and MasterCard are accepted for deposits.)

For info about program, call Don Hicks at (601) 292-3287 in Jackson, or 1 (800) 748-1651.



**Gulfshore Baptist Assembly**  
Pass Christian



For info, contact the MBCB Church Music Department at 1 (800) 748-1651 or in Jackson, (601) 292-3267.

**Worship Service**  
*April 21*  
**Emmanuel BC**  
**Grenada**  
**6 p.m.**

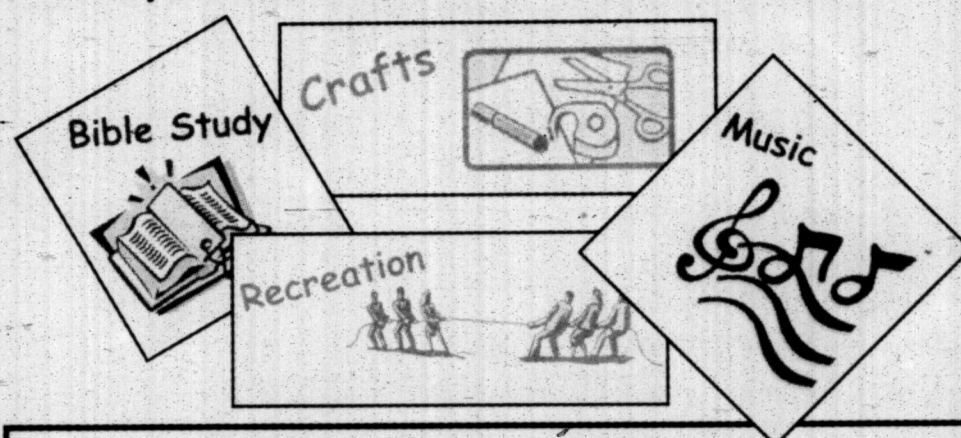
**Saturday  
May 11**

## Spring Fling

Special Ministry Adults

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Camp Garaywa

Cost is only \$12 per person. A preregistration fee of \$5 is necessary by May 1, 2002. The balance will be due at registration. One adult counselor for every five participants of the same sex is required. For additional information, contact the Sunday School Department, 1 (800) 748-1651.



### REGISTRATION

Church name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Church address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
Person completing form \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Total # attending \_\_\_\_\_ Total preregistration fee enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: Sunday School Department  
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

## The Great Expedition!



**Discovering God's Plan  
Exploring My Part**

## Associational Leadership Training

**Special Guest: Barbara Joiner**

**May 17 - 18, 2002, Camp Garaywa**

For more information on WMU leadership training please contact the state WMU office at  
1 (800) 748-1651, or in Jackson (601) 292-3323,  
or E-mail tanderson@mbcb.org.

## International Missions Conference

Celebrating our Emeritus Missionaries

• Ridgecrest, N.C.

July 27 - August 2, 2002

Bible Study Leader: Robertson McQuilkin

Mississippi WMU is sponsoring a bus trip to the **last** International Missions Conference being held at the LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. Our bus will depart from Camp Garaywa on **July 26** and return on **August 3**.

**Cost: \$605 (estimate)**

Cost details are on registration form which is available from the Mississippi WMU Office at 1 (800) 748-1651, ext. 316 or E-mail: nmason@mbcb.org to request a form.

**A deposit of \$75 is due by May 24, 2002.** Final payments, cancellations, and substitutions are due by June 18, 2002.

You can find more information and a registration form under **EVENTS** on the Mississippi Baptist Web site: [www.MBCB.org](http://www.MBCB.org).

**We're loading up the bus...are you going to be on it???**



# Singles Fling & Rallies...

**April 26-27, 2002**

**"Singles Spring Fling"**

**"Stepping Out with Jesus"**

FBC, Biloxi

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

Matt Blagg, recording artist  
Norman, Okla.

Cost: \$5, payable at the door  
For directions and information  
call (601) 683-2066

*Sponsored by: FBC, Biloxi, FBC, Picyune and MBCB*

**April 27, 2002**

**"Singles Rally"**

FBC, Columbus

**7:00 - 10:00 p.m.**

7:00 - Fellowship and Food

8:00 - **ACTS TOO** - MSU BSU

Drama Team

**SPEAKER** - Randy Impson

Calvary BC, Starkville (former  
minister of Singles in  
W. Monroe, La.

Cost: \$5, payable at the door  
For directions and information  
call (228) 396-8500

*Sponsored by: Golden Triangle Association  
(Single Vision) and MBCB*

**April 27, 2002**

**"Singles Rally"**

FBC, Newton

**5:30 - 10:00 p.m.**

6:00 - Baked Potato, salad  
and drinks

**Conferences:**

• **Money Talk**

Randy Hanna  
Philadelphia

• **Single-Parenting**

Wayne Hudson  
Van Cleave, Miss.

• **Jan & Fun Stuff**

Jan Halford  
ventriloquist  
and music  
Jackson

• **Cooking Solo**

Lyn Waggoner  
Newton

Cost: \$5, payable at the door  
For directions and information  
call (601) 683-2066

*Sponsored by: Newton Association, Neshoba  
Association, MBCB*

## Mississippi Baptist Convention State Softball Tournament



### 2002 Tournament Dates

Class	Sunday School Enrollment	Dates
A	0-300	July 19 & 20
AA	301-700	July 26 & 27
AAA	701 and above	August 9 & 10

For more info call Men's Ministry, 1 (800) 748-1651, or 1 (601) 292-3335

## Pastor and Wife Retreat

**August 8-10, 2002**

**Gulfshore Baptist Assembly**

### Leaders

**Glen Putnam** is the pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Jonesboro, Ark., and former staff counselor for Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis. His doctoral research was on ministry marriages. He is well-qualified to guide our retreat because of his vast pastoral ministry, extensive counseling experiences and support to ministers and their families.

**Steve Walker**, music evangelist from Pinola, will lead music in our worship times.

### Purpose

To provide a time of encouragement, inspiration and fellowship for pastors and wives.

### Childcare

Supervised care will be made available for preschoolers, children and youth.

### Cost

2 nights lodging and 6 meals:

- **Adults:** \$90 per person
- **Ages 12 & up:** \$53.25 per person
- **Ages 2-11:** \$31.65 per person
- **Age 2 and under:** no cost

There is no conference fee.

### Scholarships

Scholarships of \$50 per pastor are available. Please indicate on registration form.

### For more information

**Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept.**

**Matt Buckles, director**

**Keith Gordon, consultant**

**Kay McDonnell, ministry assistant**

**1 (800) 748-1651 or (601) 292-3305**

## CENTRAL HILLS SUMMER SCHEDULE 2002

### Summer Missions Camp for Boys

June 10-14

June 17-21

June 24-28

July 8-12

July 15-19

July 22-26

### Lad/Dad Weekend

June 21-22

July 19-20

### Children's Camp for Boys and Girls

July 1-3

### Mother/Son Weekend Camp

July 26-27

*For scheduling  
information  
contact*

### CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT

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Kosciusko MS 39090-0698

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Fax: (662) 289-9718

E-mail: ptyler@mbcb.org



Pray this day for...

April 19-May 2, 2002

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1 (800) 787-7729 (PRAY)

"When God is about to pour out His unusual mercies upon His people He first sets them to prayer."

Matthew Henry. Pastor and Bible expositor

Joe Jennings is an institutional chaplain. His wife is Elizabeth. Pray that God would bless the unit he works with including the administration and offenders. Pray that the programs and volunteers would direct offenders and staff to the cross, where they can find hope, peace, salvation and purpose for their lives.

For: (1) Life Commitment Sunday (CAPM Emphasis); (2) Pray for Muslims to realize the gravity of their sin and their need for a Redeemer. Pray for them to see that Jesus Christ was not only a prophet and the coming judge, but is God Himself the only One who can cover their sin and redeem their lives.

For: (1) Outreach/Evangelism Tools Tour, Longview Heights BC, Olive Branch (SS, D&FM, Evang.); (2) Pray for L. in Brazil. He heard the Lord calling him to "be transformed by the renewing of his mind" recently. L. talked to Missionary Eric Reese, confessing that he is struggling with homosexual desires.

For: (1) Preaching & Worship Conference, Highland BC, Vicksburg, 29-30 (CAPM); (2) Praise God for the recent harvest of believers among the Turkana of Kenya and Sudan. Pray that discipleship and training will follow.

For: (1) Outreach/Evangelism Tools Tour, FBC, Starkville (SS, D&FM, Evang.); (2) Pray for a group of believers in Inguincho, outside of Otavalo, Ecuador. Pastor L. and a group from his church go every Wednesday afternoon to visit door to door and then have a Bible study. Pray for that group of 15 adults and several children.

Give thanks to God for the medical/dental team of 29 volunteers from Mississippi who went to a Guaray village and teamed with 54 evangelicals in Bolivia, speaking with 2,400 persons, and had 20 professions of faith over a four-day period.

Greenland needs church planters. In several towns ministries have stopped and followers have backslidden. Workers will leave in a couple of years and the nationals are not stable enough to take it on alone. Pray that believers will have a breakthrough into lasting growth and ask for more workers to serve there.

For: (1) Edwina Robinson Special Day Offering (WMU Emphasis); (2) A couple serving among the Serbs covets your prayers as they seek to become fluent in the Serbian language. The wife has progressed from full-time to part-time study. Her husband does very well in conversation but struggles with the grammar.

For: (1) Outreach/Evangelism Tools Tour, Main Street BC, Hattiesburg; (2) It is difficult to direct new believers to local house churches in Chengdo, China, because only a limited number of them are known. Also, house church leaders are suspicious of new people. Would you ask God to help bridge this gap?

For: (1) Music Mississippi, Eagle Ridge Conference Center, Raymond (CM); (2) Please pray for a workshop being held May 3-4 for youth leaders in the far northern region of Malawi. Pray for the Holy Spirit to move among each leader who attends and in those who are teaching.

For: (1) Franklin County Mission Blitz, Meadville High School (Adult Team); (2) National Missionary Parent Fellowship, Garaywa, Patterson Place (WMU); (3) State Handbell Festival, Gulfshore, Pass Christian; (CM).

For: (1) State Speakers Tournament, Alta Woods BC, Jackson (D&FM); (2) State Selection Tournament, Alta Woods BC, Jackson (D&FM); (3) Lad/Crusader Day, Central Hills, Kosciusko, (MM).

For: (1) Mother/Son Weekend Camp, Central Hills, Kosciusko, 26-27 (MM); (2) State Handbell Festival, Mississippi College, Clinton, 26-27 (CM); (3) Please pray today for President Eduardo Duhalde of Argentina (southern South America).

For: (1) Statewide Prayer Rally (WMU); (2) Argentina has been in a serious banking crisis since late November 2001. As a result of the devaluation of their currency, Argentine (national) missionaries abroad have received a 60 percent pay cut. Pray that their missionaries will receive the support they need.

## Preaching & Worship Conference

Highland Baptist Church  
Vicksburg  
Monday, April 29

First Baptist Church  
Batesville  
Tuesday, April 30

Featured Presenters:  
Bill Hardin & Bill Clark

For more info, call the Church Administration - Pastoral Ministries Department at 1 (800) 748-1651 or in Jackson, (601) 292-3305, or E-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!

- 3-86 MR. JOEL T. MARTIN  
Parents: William & Cynthia Martin, Strategy
- 3-86 MISS LAUREN E. MCCALL  
Parents: Dennis & Margaret McCall  
Agriculture
- 6-86 MISS CHARISSA B. HEARON  
Parents: Thomas & Bonnie Hearon  
Student Evangelism
- 15-79 MR. JASON D. HENDRICKS  
Parents: Larry D. & Mary W. Hendricks  
General Evangelism
- 18-83 MR. ROSS E. KYZAR  
Parents: John Russell & Melinda Kyzar  
Strategy
- 24-97 MR. LUCAS W. BRASWELL  
Parents: Larry & Alicia Braswell  
General Evangelism
- 26-89 MR. LAWRENCE W. BRASWELL, II  
Parents: Larry & Alicia Braswell  
General Evangelism
- 28-89 MISS CHARISSA L. FORTENBERRY  
Parents: Robert & Margaret Fortenberry  
General Evangelism
- 30-82 MR. KYLE P. MARTIN  
Parents: William & Cynthia Martin, Strategy

For security, cards will be forwarded.  
Please send all to:

Child's name and  
parent's name  
International Mission Board  
P.O. Box 6767  
Richmond, VA 23230-8767

# HOUSE TOPS



# Should missionaries be asked to affirm BFM?

Rankin, continued from page 2

Reaching a lost world is what missions is all about. This is what Southern Baptists want their missionaries to be doing — witnessing to the lost, starting new churches, spreading the Gospel to the Last Frontier of the Great Commission. That isn't done by those who water down the authority of God's Word, believe whatever they choose, and are batted about by every wind of doctrine.

The almost 5,200 Southern Baptist missionaries who have been approved for appointment by IMB and dispersed to the uttermost ends of the earth are solid in their faith, thoroughly Southern Baptist, and doctrinally sound. These are missionaries God will use to win the world, and they are worthy of your support. I am confident they will welcome the opportunity to affirm that to Southern Baptists.

Yancey, continued from page 2

Missions Church, in partnership with IMB to win the world to Jesus.

However, I believe Rankin's decision in this BFM issue has placed him in a no-win situation. It is time for Southern Baptist leaders who have been in control now for well over 10 years to put up their swords and start trusting God. There is a world to be won to Christ, and there are

people who are willing to hold the ropes while there are other people willing to go.

It is time for politics to be replaced by prayer. It is time for many of our churches, whose members have been shut out of Southern Baptist trustee appointments and leadership positions, to be brought to the table.

When that happens, revival cannot be far away.

## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

**Mississippi College (MC)** will hold the third annual vocal competition for the Bethea-Claxton Award. The event will be held in Swor Auditorium on April 19, at 7:30 p.m. Participants, limited to MC vocal performance majors, will be adjudicated by the MC voice faculty. Gerald Claxton, who retired in May, 2000, and Ann Bethea, friend of MC, established this competition with its cash award of two-thousand dollars in the Spring of 2000.

**William Carey College (WCC)** will present the Eighteenth Annual Conference on the Elderly Mississippian with a Mental Handicap on April 26 from 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m. on the Hattiesburg campus. The confer-

ence will be hosted by Paul Cotten, professor of psychology and music therapy at WCC. Registration begins at 8 p.m. in the Smith Auditorium followed by the conference welcome at 8:45 a.m. and the first plenary session, Who Cares for the Family Caregiver at 9 a.m. Two concurrent sessions, An Update On Olmstead, and Ways to Facilitate Psychosocial Inclusion, begin at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon and another session, The Interrogative Pronouns and their Relationship to the Three D's begins at 1 p.m. Two concurrent sessions, The Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner - How to Maximally Utilize Them, and The Impact of Music Therapy with This Population will begin at 2:30 p.m. The report

from the state of Mississippi will be presented at 4 p.m. The workshop is sponsored by WCC, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health, the American Association of Mental Retardation, the Boswell Regional Center, and the Mental

Health Association of the Pine Belt. The pre-registration fee of \$15, due by April 25, includes the cost of the conference, luncheon, and breaks. Registration will be \$20 at the door. Carey students will pay \$5. For information call Paul Cotten at (601) 318-6416.

## Southwestern Singers on tour



The Southwestern Singers, a 49-member choral group from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas, will perform two concerts in the Jackson metro area during their upcoming Spring Tour. The group will perform April 23 at 4 p.m. on the campus of Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton, and at 7 p.m. at Briar Hill Church in Florence. For more information, contact Doug Spires, minister of music, at (601) 845-6843. (BR special photo)



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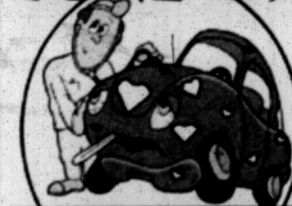
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Contact Bi-Vocational Minister- Rev. Royce R. Lott, Jr.,  
your independent Penn Life agent **TOLL FREE** at 1-800-826-3175 ext. 375  
for a **no cost/no obligation** appointment to review your Medicare Supplement,  
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(I repent.)
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(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.  
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**First Church of Sharon, Laurel**, will honor Betty Smith, pianist, on April 21 for her many years of service. Morning service will include James McCall, former pastor, and Lavon Welborn, former minister of music, leading the services. A covered dish luncheon and special afternoon service will be held in her honor.

**James Jose' Belcher** was ordained to the ministry at Meadowview Church, Starkville, on March 17. He is currently serving as youth minister at Hope Church in Clay County. Pictured (from left) are Steve Galloway; James Belcher, his wife Stefanie, and son Jabin; and Ronnie Hatfield.



Galloway, the Belchers, and Hatfield

**Ordination services** for Keith McGee were held at Oakdale Church, Brandon, on Feb. 17. McGee was called to Oak Grove Church, Lake, on Feb. 10 as pastor.

**Fred G. Womack** has published *Untaught and Unlearned Knowledge, Christianity's Inevitable Global Triumph*, a book that assures that authentic Christianity will at last prevail on planet Earth. Womack began writing about his spiritual journey during the illness and death of his seven-year-old daughter. The book took a turn into the subject of faith; thus, this book was written. He is a minister with 35 years experience as a pastor and has taught for a number of years as an adjunct professor at the collegiate and seminary level in America and abroad. The book is available at Amazon.com or BarnesandNobles.com or you may ask your local bookstore to order it for you.



Womack

**Harry Barnes** (center) was presented a plaque for beginning the Lincoln Association's Baptist Men's Rally in 1980. Presenting the plaque was Julius (Peck) Vaughn,

Associational Baptist Men's director; Hubert Davis (back row), president, Baptist Men's Rally; and Talmadge Smith (right), Associational Missions

director. "Since this presentation, Barnes has passed away. Yet, his influence lives on and the ministry he began is continuing to grow," said Smith.



Vaughn, Davis, Barnes, and Smith

## HOMEcomings

**Bethsaida, Philadelphia:** April 28; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by a covered dish lunch; singing with Higher Ground at 1:30 p.m.; Billy James, pastor.

**New Prospect, Oxford:** April 28; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; Wayne Morrow, Natchitoches, La., evangelist; Keith Owens, Jasper, Ala., vocalist; Jerry Moore, pastor.

**Crowder, North Delta Association:** April 28; 10:30 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall following morning worship service; Danny Smith, speaker; Keith Bolen, Crowder, music; Ben James, pastor.

**Mt. Zion, Taylorsville:** 132nd anniversary; April 28; 10:45 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; Hosanna, Magee, music; Keith M. Thompson, pastor.



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## MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY

Editor:

Please let our churches know about an opportunity to do North American and international missions right here in Mississippi.

We currently have a vacancy for this summer, the week of June 8-14.

There are opportunities to do a variety of projects during the week. Included are Backyard Bible Clubs at apartment complexes and in Boys and Girls Club settings. Additional opportunities include serving at sea-

men's centers, assisted living centers, and a local soup kitchen. Dormitory style, air-conditioned lodging which has showers, stove, refrigerator, washing machine, and dryer are available.

The time is crucial and I feel this is "just what someone is looking for" to complement their summer program.

Please contact me as soon as possible at Jackson County Baptist Association, P.O. Box 1726, Pascagoula, MS 39568. Telephone: (228) 769-7101. E-mail: tdm@ametro.net

Thomas D. Miller  
Pascagoula

## ADDRESSES SOUGHT

Editor:

Corinth Church, Purvis, will be having its annual homecoming services on May 26. Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m. and continue with special music, Joe Beach preaching, the "Bibletones Quartet," and a covered dish lunch. We are looking for any addresses of anyone who needs to be sent a special invitation; especially those who were once members of Corinth Church and have since moved their letter elsewhere. If you have an address

please contact the church at (601) 794-8044, email us at CorinthBC@aol.com, or write us at 712 Corinth Rd., Purvis, MS 39475. Our deadline for these addresses will be April 28.

Homecoming Committee  
Corinth Church, Purvis

## OUTPOURING OF LOVE

Editor:

Several weeks ago I had the privilege of speaking at your Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference in Jackson. It has been about twelve years since my wife underwent bilateral mastectomy and reconstruction. Her surgeon now lives in the great city of Jackson, and the timing for some follow-up surgery coincided perfectly with our trip.

Unfortunately, there were complications with her procedure. While my wife and I were dealing with the difficulties and asking our own church for prayers, we received a visit from your executive director, Jim Futral, along with Sonny Adkins, your director of evangelism.

They were soon followed by Jerry Sager and Rocky Henriques of the LifeWay Christian Resources store in Jackson. After their time of love and prayer, we were blessed by staff at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson — pastor Mark Anderson with Tom and Rhonda Johnson. They were followed by your Mississippi WMU director, Kay Cassibry.

The outpouring of love and encouragement just continued to flow.

You folks in Mississippi need to know that you have a wonderful state staff and caring pastors who went out of their way to minister to a fellow pastor from a nearby state.

You will never know this side of heaven how much your care and concern encouraged this pastor and wife.

Mac Brunson, senior pastor  
First Church, Dallas

## REVIVAL DATES

**Good Hope, Purvis:** stewardship revival; April 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Lake, evangelist; Allen Carlson, music; Todd Blackwell, pastor.

**Holly (Alcorn):** May 5-8; 7 p.m. nightly; Andy Bryan, Headland, Ala., evangelist/musician; Tony Morrow, pastor.

**Antioch, Columbus:** April 28-May 1; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kara Blackard, Corinth, evangelist.

**North Columbia, Columbia:** April 21-24; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; lunch; discipleship training, 5 p.m.; worship, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Valton Douglas, evangelist; Wade Lott, music; Mike Grenn, pastor.

**Bay Vista, Biloxi:** May 5-10; Sunday, 10:30 a.m., meal, and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Darrell Robinson, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Lowery Anderson, Gulfport, music.

**Oak Hill (Prentiss):** April 21-24; 7 p.m. nightly; Don Baggett, pastor, and Sammy Randolph, music director, both of Belden Church, Belden, will lead the revival; Mark Cagle is pastor.

**Calvary, Yazoo City:** April 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Billy Smith, Madison, evangelist; Bill and Martha Martin, Yazoo County, music; Richard E. Colwell, pastor.

**New Zion (Leake):** April 22-26; 7 p.m.; Gary Lutrick of Shady Grove, Texas, evangelist; Tim Savell, pastor.

**Faith, Jackson:** April 21-24; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6 p.m.; Frank Gunn, Biloxi, speaker; Tim Ruth, music; Greg Wolfe, pastor.

**Central, Meridian:** April 21-24; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Ben James, Crowder, guest evangelist; Rick Munn, Hazlehurst, worship leader; Danny Chisholm, pastor.

**Tinsley, Tinsley:** April 25-28; Thurs.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Andy May will be leading the services.

**Carson (Covington-Jeff Davis):** April 28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and noon meal; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Berry, Puckett, evangelist; Michael Sellers, Magee, music; Jimmy Sellers, pastor.

**Scotland, Winona:** April 28-May 1; Sunday, 10:30 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sonny Adkins, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Joe Styron, Brandon, music; Gregg Woodard, pastor.

**Parkway, Clinton:** May 5-8; Sunday, worship, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon., 10 a.m., covered dish lunch, and 6 p.m.; Tues., 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Roosevelt State Park, and 6 p.m.; and Wed., 10 a.m., lunch, and 6 p.m.; Landrum Leavell, former president, New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Lonnie Stewart, West Monroe, La., music.

## MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.



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## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Courage of conviction

Amos 7:1-17

By Sandra Gunn

Israel's daily newspaper could have read: Beyond Redemption, Judgement Inevitable — so says this prophet Amos! Amos had received visions from God — visions that were reminders yet again that Israel should return to God before the worst comes — captivity. Amos, after being shown the visions, became an intercessor for the people.

As a result of this intercession, God changed his mind! Intercessory prayer is costly. It involves a way of life. The ministry of intercession means that we must involve ourselves with the people for whom we are praying. We must care! Amos cared for these people. He seemed to realize that he had no

rights to preach to them if he didn't pray for them.

The third vision in the series involves the Lord, a wall, and a plumb line. A plumb line is simply a weight tied to the end of a string, which will indicate a true perpendicular relationship to the earth. If the wall leans to an appreciable extent, it must be declared unsafe, and must either be straightened or torn down.

Every generation has to meet the test of the plumb line. God holds us to his absolute standard. Israel failed the test. The religious structures and the political system were the cause of the failure. God does not come in judgement without a purpose. If the testing leads to forgiveness, then it will have been purposeful



Gunn

and strengthening.

Does God still speak to men today as he spoke to Amos? An article in the latest Commission magazine about Cairo, Egypt, says, the Lord seems to be revealing himself to many Muslims through dreams and visions."

Amos used the words, "Thus the Lord God showed me," and we believe that God is still showing himself to men.

Then we come to a bit of history lesson in v. 10. This is a dramatic scene between prophet and priest. Amaziah, the priest, was associated with governmental power in Israel. It seems the religion of that day could be described as institutional religion. This kind of religion is characterized by being responsible to a power other than God, favoring the status quo, and is required to refrain from all criticism.

Amaziah, backed by the power of the government, seeks to silence the prophet of

God. He charges Amos with conspiracy against King Jereboam and the nation. Amaziah takes the matter into his own hands when he orders Amos out of the country.

Amos answers by declaring that he was no prophet nor a prophet's son. He was just a simple herdsman whom God had called. In fact, he said "the Lord took him," and "the Lord said unto me." He wanted to make the point that he really hadn't sought the misison of prophecy, but had merely obeyed the Lord. All of Amos's message was of God and from God.

As far as we know, Amos was the first layman to bring a religious message to a nation. This is a testimony that spiritual and prophetic insight is not confined to the professional and ordained men of God.

Amos was convinced that God had called him forth to be a prophet; thus he was bound to perform his duty as a servant, not a master. The lesson to be learned here then is that the call of God is the initiating factor

when anyone enters ministry.

Amos was dedicated to his task despite the hostility of institutionalized religion. He remained faithful to God's calling. Rather than retreat, he persevered. He pressed on with his proclamation of judgement.

He insisted that Israel would be led away into exile. He prophesied tragedy for Amaziah's family and their possessions as well as death for Amaziah in a foreign land. Nothing could have been more dreaded than to die on foreign or unclean soil.

These words of judgement spoken by Amos upon the nations would be fulfilled during the lifetime of some of his listeners. We need men like Amos who are unafraid to speak God's message, who cannot be coerced, intimidated, or silenced by a hostile government or an unfriendly world. The true prophet must be willing to pay any price to realize God's purpose for his life.

Gunn is a member of First Church, Biloxi.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Being the body of Christ

Ephesians 3:14-21

By Robin Brumfield

This lesson is taken from Ephesians 4:1-16. It is about the unity of the church, which is the body of Christ. The emphasis is on helping churches achieve, demonstrate, and maintain unity.

The lesson challenges adults to use their spiritual gifts to help their churches achieve, demonstrate, and maintain unity. Some Christians are not convinced they have even one spiritual gift, while others do not know which spiritual gifts they have. A few Christians want to use their spiritual gifts to gain a reputation for themselves and others are afraid or unwilling to use their gifts at all.

God earnestly yearns for all Christians to realize they have spiritual gifts and to use them to help their churches achieve, demonstrate, and maintain unity. Let's now take a look to see how you can use your spiritual gifts to help your church achieve, demonstrate, and maintain unity.

The passage is broken into three sections. The first section deals with promoting church unity (vv. 1-6). Look carefully at verses 3-6. They contain the exhortation to promote unity in the church and indicate the basis for that unity.

Pay close attention to verse 2: "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with



Brumfield

one another in love." One of the key principles of the Christian life is love (my emphasis). I challenge you to do a word study on "love." It will prove very fruitful to you.

Notice in verse 6 the phrase, "Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

The word "all" refers to the church and its members as the body of Christ. In this section, Paul reminds these Christians of their calling in Jesus Christ and Paul urges these believers to demonstrate the qualities that would promote unity in the church. Therefore, Christians today should make every effort to work for unity in their own churches.

The second section is for Christians to recognize their spiritual gifts (vv. 7-11). Verse 7 states that each believer is given different degrees of grace. Thus, more is expected from some believers than for

other believers. God requires that each and every believer use the gift of grace that he has been given; he is to use his spiritual gift(s).

In verses 7-8 Paul uses Psalm 68:16. "Paul was not twisting Scripture to suit his purpose or being dishonest in this approach. Rather, he was simply following the rabbinical practice of extending the idea in Scripture.

As the One with gifts, God through Christ Jesus distributes gifts to his people. Spiritual gifts are not talents. They are gifts to be used in ministry that a believer receives at salvation, and every believer has at least one gift.

Let's make one thing clear. The list in this section is only a partial list of gifts. The gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12 and in Romans 12 are also partial lists. Be sure to notice that the gift of "pastors and teachers" in verse 11 is one gift not two.

Paul declared that Christ has distributed spiritual gifts to

each and every believer of his body. Christians need to know that they have spiritual gifts, and they need to know which of the spiritual gifts they have.

The third section is talking about the use of spiritual gifts (vv. 12-16). Verse 12 gives one of the main reasons to use spiritual gifts: "to prepare God's people for works of service."

God never intended for unbelievers to get saved; become Christians, and then to just warm a pew. He intended for believers to serve Christ in the church by exercising their spiritual gifts(s).

This section emphasizes that individual believers receive spiritual gifts for use in the church, not for their own pleasure. Paul plainly stated that the purpose of spiritual gifts was to help Christians mature, to help churches achieve unity, and to stimulate believers to grow into all that God wants them to be.

Brumfield is interim pastor of Goodwater Church, Forest.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mr. & Mrs. James E. Dixon

Galilee Baptist Church

Maude Barney SSC, Galilee

#### BC-Gloster

#### Mrs. Mary Evelyn Hood

#### Upchurch

Theo S. Crowton

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Hood

Mr. & Mrs. James H. Mitchell

Mrs. Patsy H. Pittman

Mr. & Mrs. Lee H. Thompson

#### Mrs. Ora S. Varnado

Mrs. Mary L. Causey

Willing Workers SSC, Liberty BC

#### Mr. & Mrs. Omar Varnado

Mr. & Mrs. Willie Badon

Mrs. Mary L. Causey

#### Mrs. Sunny Vest

Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan

#### Leona Vitable

Mr. & Mrs. Scott J. Dees

#### Father of Mr. Kent Walker

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Southerland

#### Leona Wallace

Gerald & Margie Bond

#### Mr. Chuck Weldon

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Southerland

#### Mrs. Laura Wells

Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Parsons

#### Vangie Westmoreland

Mrs. Frances N. Allen

#### Dr. Reginald White, MD

Dr. & Mrs. Bobby L. Adams

#### Mr. Adam White

Mr. Wade McGlothlin

#### Mr. Lester White

Mrs. William B. Webb

#### Mrs. Pauline Brown White

Mr. & Mrs. Buford Berry

#### Lester Whitten

Mr. James L. Travis

#### Mr. Cecil Wilder

Mrs. Mildred Jackson Witchen

#### Mr. & Mrs. Stanford Wilkie

Dr. Rebecca S. Wilkie

#### James Williams

Mr. & Mrs. Devon Pope

#### Mr. Willie Williams

Ms. Judy Ewell Day

#### Ruth D. Williams

Mr. & Mrs. Howell McCormick

#### Mrs. Norma Winstead

Mr. & Mrs. Harold B. Blalock

#### Mr. Kenneth Wood

Mr. Mike Daughdrill

#### Mr. William Ervin Wright

Mr. & Mrs. Kelly Hutchison

#### Mr. James E. Wroten

Siloam Baptist Church

#### Mr. E. P. Young

Mr. & Mrs. T. W. Dulaney Jr.

## FEBRUARY 1-28, 2002 MEMORIALS

#### Howard Ladwig

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Bryson

#### Christine Sessums Landfair

Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Sessums

#### Herman Lee

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Allen Saucier

#### Ms. Delores Lee

Bill, Dianne, Carla & Will

#### Hathorn

#### Mr. Charles D. Little

Mr. & Mrs. Laney A. Berry

Newhebron Baptist Church

Mrs. Agnes L. Harper

Dr. & Mrs. Roy W. Daughdrill

#### Mother of Ralph Lloyd

Mr. & Mrs. Billy E. Trim

#### Mr. Robert Luckett

Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Bradford

#### Gail Luna

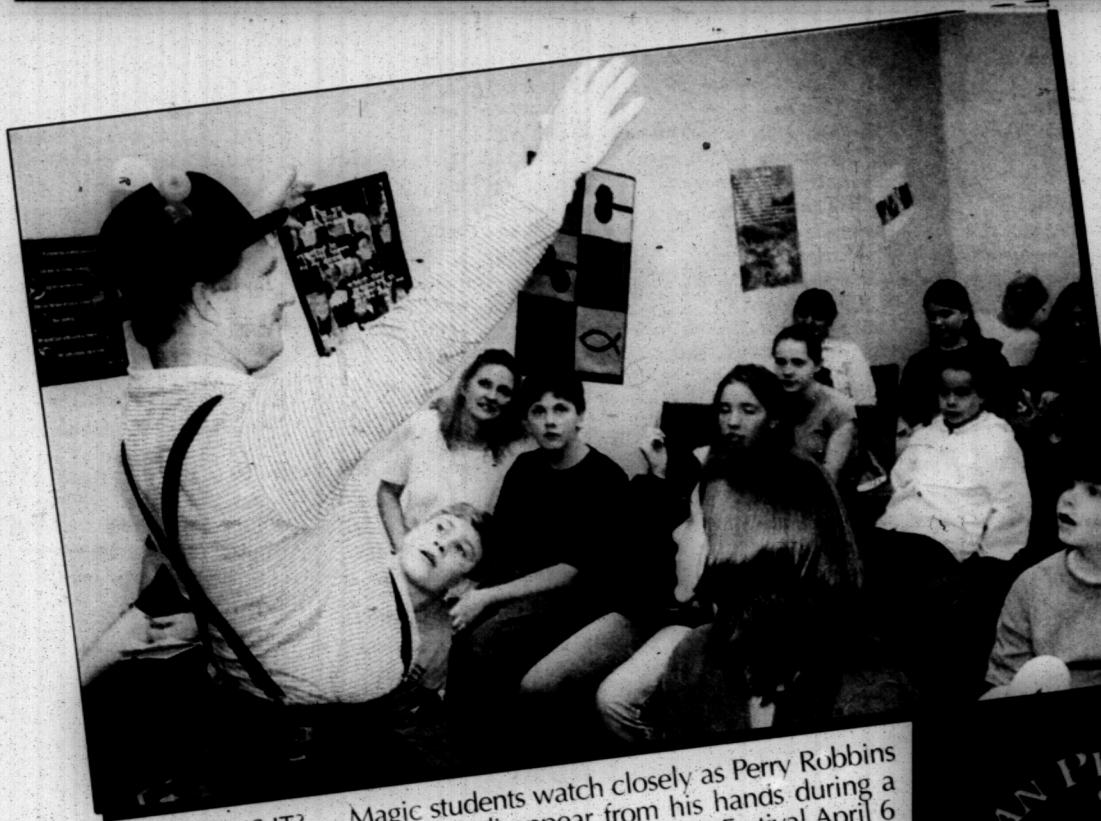
Ms. Judy White

#### Infant son of Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Magee



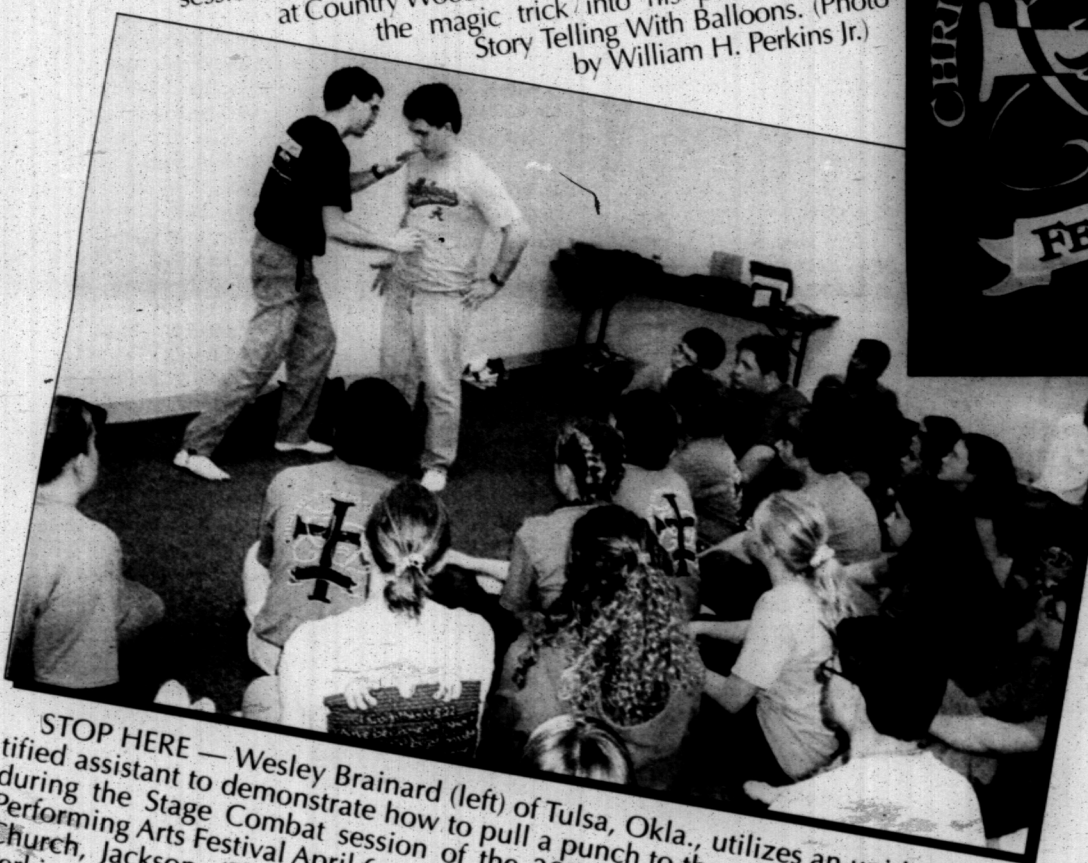
# 2002 CHRISTIAN PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

April 5-6 • Country Woods Church, Jackson



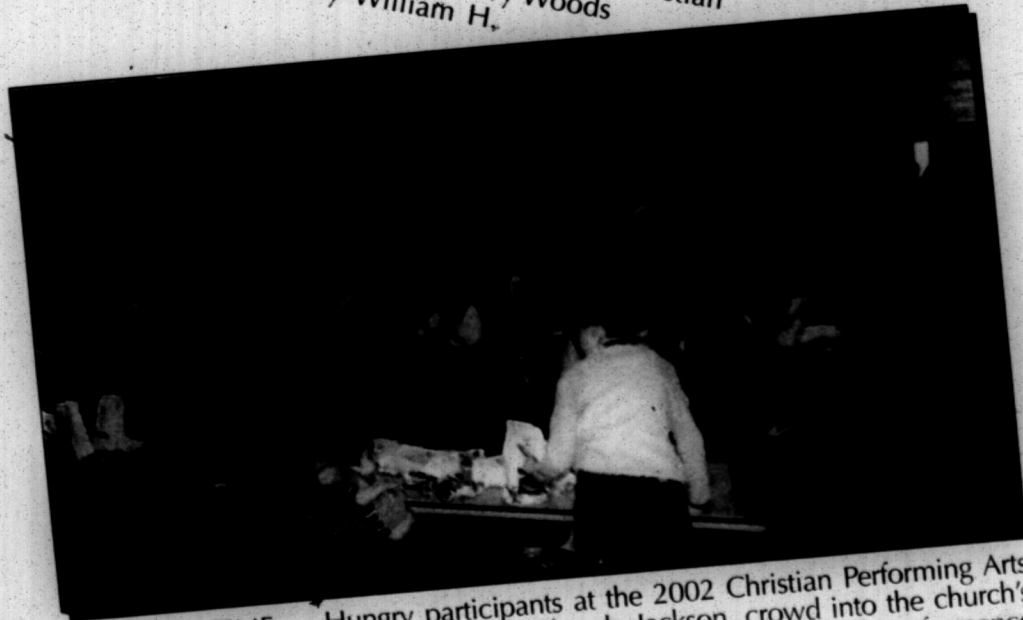
WHERE IS IT? — Magic students watch closely as Perry Robbins of Columbia makes an object disappear from his hands during a session of the 2002 Christian Performing Arts Festival April 6 at Country Woods Church, Jackson. Robbins worked the magic trick into his presentation on Story Telling With Balloons. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

SHARING IDEAS — Wesley Brainard (right) of Tulsa, Okla., and Kricket — Vicki Walthall of Stonewall — discuss presentation technique during a break at the 2002 Christian Performing Arts Festival April 6 at Country Woods Church, Jackson. Brainard and Walthall served as instructors at the festival (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



STOP HERE — Wesley Brainard (left) of Tulsa, Okla., utilizes an unidentified assistant to demonstrate how to pull a punch to the stomach during the Stage Combat session of the 2002 Christian Performing Arts Festival April 6 at Country Woods Church, Jackson. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

UP HIGH — Cheryl Pitman (left) of Cordova, Tenn., and Penny Elliott of Memphis demonstrate proper technique during the session entitled, Choreographing Your Puppet Skills, at the 2002 Christian Performing Arts Festival April 6 at Country Woods Church, Jackson. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



LUNCH TIME — Hungry participants at the 2002 Christian Performing Arts Festival on April 6 at Country Woods Church, Jackson, crowd into the church's Family Life Center for lunch after a morning of sessions on performance techniques by various instructors. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



SIGNING THE GOSPEL — Students at the 2002 Christian Performing Arts Festival April 6 at Country Woods Church, Jackson, learn sign language at a session taught by Iris Stuart of Morton. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)